

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Express Mail No.: EL627426646US

In re Application of: JARMAN et al.

FILING DATE: Herewith

ART UNIT:

TITLE: A UTILITY METERING SYSTEM INCORPORATING A TRANSACTION  
AUTHORISATION SYSTEM

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 708P009508-US(PAR)

The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified, enclosed patent application as follows:

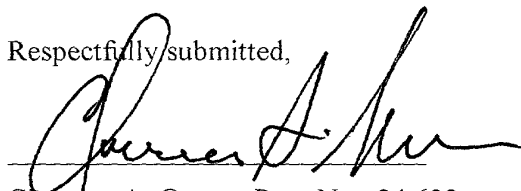
IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following new paragraph to page 1 of the specification, after the title and before the "Field of Invention", in order to claim the benefit of the prior US application:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims the benefit of the U S Provisional Application No. 60/210,997 filed June 12, 2000.

Respectfully submitted,



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22 May 01

Date